



Planning a Research Project During the Age of COVID-19

GRADUATE RESEARCH SEMINAR – OCT. 16TH, 2020

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My Project



- ❖ The identity construction and negotiation of Anglo-Québécois migrants to Ontario, within the past 45 years.
- ❖ How language ideology and provincial migration has shaped identity and belonging among Anglo-Québécois (primary English speakers from Québec).
- ❖ The peculiarity of linguistic minority status of Québec Anglophones -- provincially, but not federally.

My Initial Vision

In-Person Interviews

- ❖ I was planning to have access to a vehicle over this past summer and drive out to meet participants for interviews.

Participant Observation

- ❖ I was planning to take part in family events with participants or get together with their friends who had also migrated from Québec.

Analysis of News Articles

- ❖ I planned to collect news articles related to my research topic, over a period of time from the Quiet Revolution, up to the present day.

What I Ended Up Doing



Zoom and Telephone Interviews

- ❖ All interviews were conducted at home.

Discourse Analysis of Interview Transcripts and News Articles

- ❖ For transcription I have been using Phillips Pro Transcribe and a foot pedal.
- ❖ The coding software I am using is NVivo 12.

Linguistic Landscapes and Symbolic Power

- ❖ I heard many stories about language change of street signage in my interviews.

Evocative Objects [Sherry Turkle (2011)]

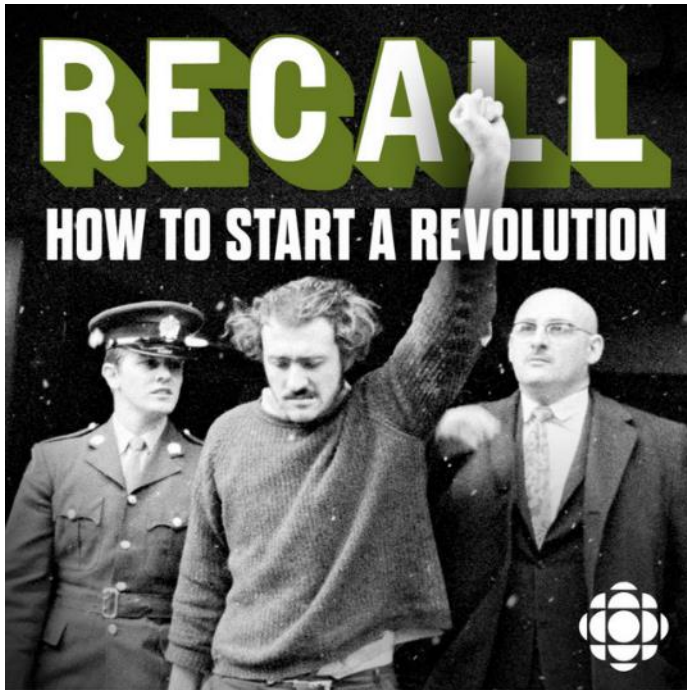
- ❖ I have found a pattern of participants bringing up the same kinds of objects that they find evocative.

What I Ended Up Doing and What I Could Have Done

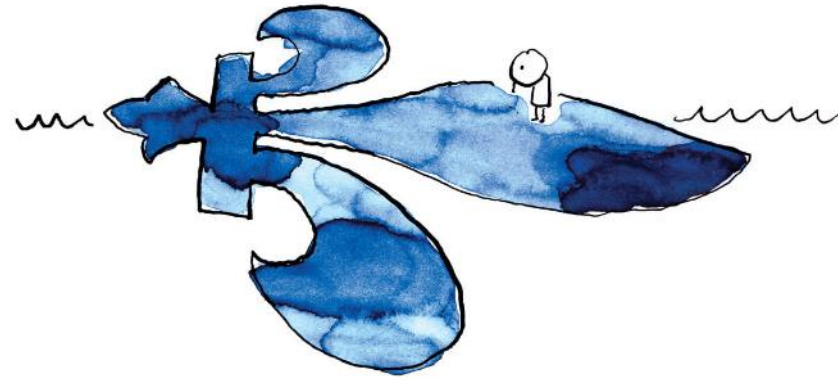
- ❖ In a lot of ways my research didn't change very much.
- ❖ **The most challenging thing:** dealing with the shock of what was going on with Covid back in March.
- ❖ 'Keep calm and carry on' but also don't be afraid to ask for help.
- ❖ I wrote my ethics application and thesis proposal regularly, then added COVID options.
- ❖ Other ideas and suggestions could have better supplemented participant observation data.

(e.g. Zoom focus groups, a ride along with my family back to Québec, reaching out to Ex-Montrealer Facebook groups, shared writing projects with the participants)

This Year is the 50th Anniversary of the October Crisis



<https://open.spotify.com/show/7DyKWVny2dtdT8OnU3cBB0?si=0hPN5uUUSZyr onxr4tRRQg>



<https://thewalrus.ca/guilty-memories-from-an-anglo-montreal-childhood/>



<https://www.ctvnews.ca/w5/50-years-later-w5-revisits-the-october-crisis-when-domestic-terrorists-tried-to-rip-the-country-apart-1.5139697>

Positive Things (the “upside”)

- ❖ Participants were readily available for interviews since many people are working from home.
- ❖ More convenient to not have to travel to conduct interviews.
- ❖ Zoom or telephone interview make it easier to have your questions out in-front of you.

Tips

- ❖ Add verbal consent as an option to your ethics application.
- ❖ Get ethics approval sooner rather than later.
- ❖ Become an even greater listener.
- ❖ Pay attention in theory class when reading about online ethnography.
- ❖ Use citation software (e.g. Mendeley) and look at Scrivener.
- ❖ Get a good quality webcam, external storage devices, a foot pedal, and an audio recorder.





Questions?